

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1-85 (Cancelled)

86. (Previously presented) A double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) comprising a complementary RNA strand, a sense RNA strand and only one lipophilic group having a logK_{ow} exceeding 1, wherein the complementary RNA strand has a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a target RNA, and wherein the target RNA is an mRNA transcript of a target gene or of a (+) strand RNA virus, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to a 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand and a linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a phosphodiester group.

87-93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is a steroid or a branched aliphatic hydrocarbon, or a combination thereof.

95. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 94, wherein the lipophilic group is a sterol.

96. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 95, wherein the sterol is cholesterol or a cholesterol derivative.

97. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 96, wherein the lipophilic group is cholesterol (6-hydroxyhexyl) carbamate or 12-hydroxydodecanoic acid bisdecylamide.
98. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is selected from the group consisting of an aromatic, aliphatic or alicyclic moiety, or a combination thereof.
99. (Cancelled)
100. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a logK_{ow} exceeding 1.5.
101. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a logK_{ow} exceeding 2.
102. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a logK_{ow} exceeding 3.
- 103-109. (Cancelled)
110. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.
111. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 or 2 nucleotides.

112. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein each of the complementary RNA strand and the sense RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand, and wherein the 3'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.
113. (Cancelled)
114. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 30 nucleotides in length.
115. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 25 nucleotides in length.
116. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 20 and 25 nucleotides in length.
117. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target RNA is expressed in a cell selected from the group consisting of a hepatocyte, a pancreatic cell, a uterine cell, a cell of a cervix, and a cell of a urinary bladder.
118. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the (+) strand RNA virus is a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
119. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target RNA is at least a portion of a 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).